

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 04603 042056Z

71

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15

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P R 041733Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4603

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

DEA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 4603

NOFORN

DEPT PASS AID/W; BUENOS AIRES FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, EC

SUBJECT: MONTHLY NARCOTICS REPORT: ECUADOR, AUGUST 1973

REF: QUITO 4012

1. GENERAL

A. NATIONAL CIVIL POLICE

1) THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE NATIONAL POLICE SITUATION. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS, MENTIONED IN THE JULY REPORT (REFTEL) AS NECESSARY TO EFFECT FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NARCOTIC SERVICE, ARE PROGRESSING VERY SLOWLY.

2) IN SPITE OF A LACK OF A FULLY EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION, PROGRESS IS CONSISTENTLY BEING MADE. THE POLICE STATISTICS FOR SEIZURES THROUGH JULY SHOW THAT, EXCEPT FOR COCAINE, NARCOTICS SEIZURES HAVE EXCEEDED THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 QUITO 04603 042056Z

FIGURES FOR ALL OF 1972, AND TOTAL COCAINE SEIZURES

THROUGH JULY ARE FOUR KILOGRAMS SHORT OF TOTAL SEIZURES LAST YEAR. IN-SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAMS ARE PROGRESSING. SEVERAL INSPECTION TRIPS WERE MADE BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR DURING AUGUST TO MOTIVATE PROVINCIAL UNITS AND MAKE CORRECTIONS IN OPERATIONAL AREAS.

B. CUSTOMS PROJECT AGREEMENT

1) DURING AUGUST A U.S. CUSTOMS TRAINING TEAM CONDUCTED TWO WEEKS OF TRAINING FOR THIRTY-ONE PERSONS IN CUSTOMS NARCOTIC CONTROL.

2) A TDY CUSTOMS AGENT IS PRESENTLY CONDUCTING A SURVEY FOR THE TYPES OF PATROL BOATS WHICH WILL BE THE MOST FEASIBLE FOR WATERBORNE CUSTOMS OPERATIONS.

C. COOPERATION BETWEEN U.S. ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND THE ECUADOREAN POLICE

1) NO SIGNIFICANT NEW DEVELOPMENTS.

D. U.S. ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

1) DEA HAS BEEN ACTIVE WITH THE NARCOTICS AUTHORITIES IN GUAYAQUIL WITH RESPECT TO THE JAIME CASTELLO-YEPEZ-MILTON GRIJALVA INVESTIGATION, RESULTING FROM THE BALTIMORE SEIZURE LAST MONTH. GUAYAQUIL HAS UNCOVERED LEADS AND EVIDENCE WHICH CAN BE USED BY THE U.S. AUTHORITIES AND HAVE BEEN FORWARDED TO OUR DOMESTIC OFFICES.

2) WITH RARE EXCEPTION, THE ECUADOREANS ARE STILL CONCENTRATING ON THE NATIONAL PROBLEM RATHER THAN THE INTERNATIONAL. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH THE GOVERNOR IN GUAYAQUIL IT APPEARS THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE U.S. TAKE A MORE AGGRESSIVE ROLE ON THE INTERNATIONAL DRUG PROBLEM AND ALSO WOULD LIKE TO WORK CLOSER WITH THE U.S. AGENTS.

3) AND INTENDENTE DE POLICIA IN GUAYAQUIL, WHO IS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 QUITO 04603 042056Z

A CONFIDANT OF THE GOVERNOR, FREELY STATES THAT THEY ARE SATISFIED WITH THE NATIONAL PROGRAM, AS ECUADOR REALLY HAS NO LOCAL DRUG PROBLEM; THAT THE INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM IS A U.S. PROBLEM AND SHOULD BE RESOLVED BY US. BOTH COMMENTED THEY WOULD LIKE TO COOPERATE WITH THE U.S. HOWEVER, THEY FEEL THAT WE SHOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE.

4) THE GUAYAQUIL AUTHORITIES STATE IT WOULD BE

"FABULOUS" IF THEIR TRAFFICKERS COULD BE PROSECUTED IN THE U.S. HOWEVER, THEY EMPHATICALLY STATE ECUADOREANS WILL NOT BE EXTRADITED TO THE U.S. THEY WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO THE VIOLATORS BEING FOUND IN ANOTHER COUNTRY AND TRANSFERRED TO THE U.S. FOR TRIAL.

E. ARRESTS AND SEIZURES IN ECUADOR

1) THE NATIONAL CIVIL POLICE ARRESTED TWENTY-FOUR TRAFFICKERS, NINE PERSONS FOR POSSESSION OF NARCOTICS AND FIFTY USERS OF NARCOTICS IN THE COURSE OF EIGHTY-THREE INVESTIGATIONS. ONE FIELD OF COCAINE WITH AN UNDISCLOSED NUMBER OF PLANTS WAS DESTROYED, TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIVE GRAMS OF COCAINE BASE WERE SEIZED. TWO HUNDRED AND TWELVE KILOGRAMS OF MARIHUANA AND FIFTY-THREE MARIHUANA CIGARETTES WERE SEIZED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE INVESTIGATIONS AND ARRESTS.

II. OVERALL PROGRESS.

ALTHOUGH PROGRESS CONTINUES TO BE MADE IN ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST TO THE U.S., THIS PROGRESS IS LACKING THE DIRECTION AND FORCE NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE THE POTENTIAL THAT EXISTS.

III. MAJOR PROBLEMS AND TRENDS (REF STATE 142821).

THE HOST GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO SHOW AN INTEREST IN NARCOTICS CONTROL. WHILE THE ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM LACKS THE DIRECTION AND COORDINATION THAT IS NECESSARY TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF THE ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, IT SHOULD BE MEASURED AGAINST THE STANDARD OF PERFORMANCE OF OTHER ECUADOREAN GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS. WHEN COMPARED WITH THE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 QUITO 04603 042056Z

INEFFICIENT PERFORMANCE OF ECUADOREAN OFFICIAL INSTITUTIONS IN GENERAL, THE NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM IS PROBABLY PROGRESSING AS RAPIDLY AS CAN BE REALISTICALLY EXPECTED.
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